

Thomas Threlkeld House
(Weakley House)
Benson Pike
Shelbyville vicinity
Shelby County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-204

HABS
KY
106-SHELB.V,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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SIGNIFICANCE:

The Threlkeld/Weakley House incorporates significant early features in a largely unaltered form. Unusual features such as mud wall infill, horizontally sliding sash, an early porch and the juxtaposition of framed timber, stone and log construction make the house unique in the region. (From National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for Threlkeld/Weakley House, November 1983).

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION:

The house is composed of three different sections: Original section, ca. 1815 (the front faces south); west stone wing, ca. 1815-16; and north log ell, ca. mid-19th century (apparently to accommodate a kitchen).

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION:

Original section: frame with horizontal beaded weatherboards and 3" X 4" studs with mud wall infill (mixed with straw), 12" X 12" sills, braces (one arch brace exists over door at the southwest corner of the west gable end to the stone wing), and 12" X 12" corner posts. The one-story porch on the rear is wood. This was possibly built very soon after the construction of the Original section.

West stone wing: coursed rubble walls.

North log ell: logs with square notches typically associated with mid- to late- 19th century, sheathed with horizontal weatherboards.

All three sections have coursed square rubble foundations.

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SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE:

The entire house is T-shaped in plan.

The original (frame) section of the house is 1 1/2 stories high, and includes a cellar, garret and main floor. The main floor consists of two rooms which are separated by a plastered board partition. The garret originally consisted of two rooms corresponding to the two rooms below. It is now one room.

Both the west wing and the log ell are 1 story high. The former is a single room with a west end chimney. The latter is also a single room.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE:

Frame section: paneled main door (probably original); box cornice with crown molding (cyma recta and cyma reversa moldings) and bed molding (convex and concave cavetto moldings); stone chimneys; pintles for exterior shutters; basement vents. Original sash (probably double-hung) of first floor windows now removed. One of the square garret windows, located in the northeast side of the east gable end, contains the original nine-pane casement sash.

West stone wing: west end stone chimney; simple windows (sash probably double-hung); box cornice with crown molding (cyma recta and cyma reversa moldings).

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE:

Frame section: plaster walls (plaster applied directly over mud-infill laths); beaded baseboards; molded chairrailings; pin or peg rails running around all four walls of each room; wrought-iron ceiling hooks. The Federal wood mantles are interesting for their exquisite detail. The garret was originally finished with horizontal beaded sheathing; today this sheathing is evident only in the east part of the east gable end.

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West stone wing: two original built-in cupboards; molded chairrailing; splayed window reveals with paneled jambs and heads. The wood mantles are similar to those in the frame section (the wing was built very soon after the construction of the frame section).

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS:

See drawings.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE:

House frame and interior trim are in good condition; building now used for storage of straw and hay.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Other structures on the property include: corbeled stone springhouse; foundations of an icehouse; several outbuildings of undetermined function; late 19th century barn (to the west of the house); cistern (to the immediate north of the house).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for Threlkeld/Weakley House, November 1983.

PREPARER:

Susan McCown, HABS Architectural Historian, April 18, 1986.